

Attorney Docket No. 8194-506
Application Serial No. 09/915,712
Filed: July 26, 2001
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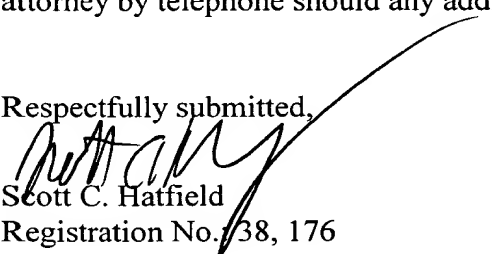
REMARKS

The Applicants sincerely appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Actions of March 28, 2005. In particular, the Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 28-52 are allowed, and that Claims 5-7, 15-17, 60-62, and 70-72 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, the Applicants have: amended Claim 1 to include all recitations of Claim 5 (indicated allowable); canceled Claim 5; amended Claims 6 and 7 to depend from Claim 1; amended Claim 11 to include all recitations of Claim 15 (indicated allowable); canceled Claim 15; amended Claims 16 and 17 to depend from Claim 11; canceled Claims 20-27; amended Claim 53 to include all recitations of Claim 60 (indicated allowable); canceled Claim 60; amended Claims 61 and 62 to depend from Claim 53; amended Claim 63 to include all recitations of Claim 70 (indicated allowable); canceled Claim 70; amended Claims 71 and 72 to depend from Claim 63; and canceled Claims 73-77. These claim amendments have been made to advance prosecution of this application to allowance without conceding unpatentability of any originally filed claims that have now been canceled and/or amended.

All claims have thus been placed in a condition indicated allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone should any additional issues need to be addressed.

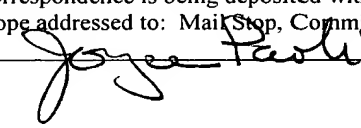
Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 28, 2005.


Joyce Paoli